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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/613,701 | 07/03/2003 | Ronald G. Hart | 6270/110 | 6836 |

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| EXAMINER |
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WACHSMAN, HAL D

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2857

DATE MAILED: 06/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/613,701

Applicant(s)

HART, RONALD G.

Examiner

Hal D. Wachsman

Art Unit

2857

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 43-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 43-59 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 60-63 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 June 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3-29-06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

1. Claim 64 in the reply filed 3-29-06 is improper under 37 C.F.R. 1.121 because the text (with strikethrough) was presented. In a cancelled claim the text is not presented. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 60-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The amendment to claim 60 in the reply filed 3-29-06 deleted in the last step "...of said at least one digital sample..." and as a result of this amendment there is now a lack of connection between the "generating a synchronized timing clock signal...." and the first two steps of the claim in which the electrical parameter was sensed to generate an analog signal followed by conversion to at least one digital sample and thus steps a and b dangle in the claim lacking a connection to the remaining steps of the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 60-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Global Positioning System applications at the Bonneville Power Administration" (Street et al.) in view of Adamiak et al. (5,809,045).

As per claim 60, Street et al. (page 244, section 1. Introduction) disclose "sensing at least one electrical parameter...generating at least one analog signal indicative thereof". Street et al. (page 247, section 5.1 BPA's experience to date) disclose "converting said at least one analog signal to at least one digital sample". Street et al. (page 244, section 1. Introduction, pages 244-245, section 3. GPS SYSTEM OVERVIEW, page 247, figure 4) disclose "generating at least one time synchronization signal from at least one time synchronization receiver". It appears though that Street et al. does not clearly disclose the remaining steps of this claim. However, Adamiak et al. (figure 1, col. 3 lines 50-53) disclose "receiving at least one timing clock signal over a network". Adamiak et al. (col. 3 lines 50-53, col. 4 lines 63-67, col. 5 lines 1-60) disclose "generating a synchronized timing clock signal by altering said at least one timing clock signal...based on at least one of said at least one time synchronization signal". It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the techniques of Adamiak et al. to the invention of Street et al. as specified above because as taught by Adamiak et al. (col. 4 lines 64-67, col. 5 line 1) in addition to being important for multi-terminal transmission lines, time synchronization is important in many other applications such as power

relays, determinations of sequences of events, economic power dispatch, and any other situation requiring synchronization of clocks.

As per claim 61, Street et al. (page 246, section 4.2 BPA Fault Locator Operation using GPS Timing, page 250, section 7, Conclusion) disclose the feature of this claim.

As per claim 62, Street et al. (pages 244-245, section 3. GPS System Overview, figure 2, page 246, section 4.2 BPA Fault Locator Operation using GPS Timing) disclose the feature of this claim.

As per claim 63, Street et al. (pages 244-245, section 3, GPS System Overview) disclose the feature of this claim.

6. Claims 43-59 are allowed.

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 60-63 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. In addition, the Examiner respectfully notes that the Adamiak et al. reference was applied in 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection of claim 64 in the prior Office action (claim 64 now cancelled) however no arguments were presented with respect to this reference and amended claim 60.

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hal D. Wachsman whose telephone number is 571-272-2225. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 7:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M..


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc Hoff can be reached on 571-272-2216. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Hal D Wachsman
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2857

HW
June 4, 2006